

F-1 Reinstatement

General Information

An F-1 student who has overstayed his or her authorized period of stay or has otherwise failed to maintain F-1 student status may be reinstated to lawful F-1 status at the discretion of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

USCIS may reinstate the student to lawful F-1 status, if they:

1. Establish to the satisfaction of USCIS that the violation of status resulted from circumstances beyond the student's control or that failure to receive reinstatement to lawful F-1 status would result in extreme hardship to the student;
2. Are currently pursuing a full course of study at the school that issued the Form I-20;
3. Have not engaged in unauthorized employment; and
4. Are not deportable on any ground other than section 241(a) (1) (B) or (c) (i) of the Act {overstaying or failing to maintain status}. {8 CFR 214.2(f) (16) (i)}

Conditions

- If you are currently working on campus, you must notify your supervisor and stop working immediately. You may resume on-campus employment only if your reinstatement application is recommended in SEVIS.
- If you have engaged in any unauthorized on- or off-campus employment, you are not eligible to apply for reinstatement.
- You must enroll full-time while your reinstatement is pending.
- Applying for a reinstatement does not guarantee that it will be granted. Prepare your application thoroughly and completely.
- If you have previously been granted a reinstatement, it is less likely that your second reinstatement application will be approved.
- Remember! Reinstatement is not the only option available to you. You may choose to obtain a new I-20, apply for a new F-1 visa, and depart (travel) and re-enter (return) to the U.S. to resume your study. Please consult with an immigration advisor in the Center for International Programs.
- If you leave the U.S. while the reinstatement application pending, USCIS will consider your reinstatement application abandoned

F-1 Reinstatement Form

Application Procedure

It is important that you do NOT delay applying for reinstatement. Even with a status violation reason beyond your control, failure to file for reinstatement within five months of the violation may cause you to be ineligible for reinstatement.

Make an appointment with an immigration advisor in the Center for International Programs to receive a Reinstatement I-20. Then, send the following documents by certified mail with return receipt (clearly indicate, "Reinstatement" on bottom left corner of envelope) to:

USCIS ATTN: I-539
2501 S State Highway 121 Business Suite 400
Lewisville, TX 75067

According to the USCIS website, your reinstatement application should include:

- 1. Completed Form I-539 (with "REINSTATEMENT" written in big, bold letters on top). Form and Instructions found online here: <https://www.uscis.gov/i-539>.
- 2. Completed Form G-1145, found here: <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/g-1145.pdf>.
- 3. \$370 filing fee – personal check made payable to Department of Homeland Security. Please verify fee amount is accurate before submitting.
- 4. Original Reinstatement I-20 (be sure to sign at #11) – File application with USCIS no later than 30 days from issuance of reinstatement recommendation I-20
- 5. SEVIS I-901 Fee Receipt - Proof of SEVIS fee payment - retrieved online here: <https://fmjfee.com/i901fee>.
- 6. Copy of I-94 Arrival/Departure Record – retrieved online here: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/i94>.
- 7. Copy of passport (identity and expiration page)
- 8. Copy of visa
- 9. Copies of any/all previously issued Form I-20
- 10. New financial document to support the cost of your education as indicated on the Reinstatement I-20
- 11. Written statement explaining your situation, and why you have failed to maintain valid F-1 status
- 12. Official HSU transcripts
- 13. Any other supporting documentation

If the reinstatement application is approved, USCIS will send you the processed I-20 and Reinstatement approval. Upon receiving these documents from USCIS, please **immediately** provide a copy to the Center for International Programs.

Upon SEVIS termination, students are no longer eligible to work. HSU Human Resources will be notified. Your employment and pay will be terminated. You may resume on-campus employment only if your reinstatement is recommended in SEVIS. I understand and agree to the statements above.

Certification

I understand and agree to the statements above.

Student name: _____

HSU ID #: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____